

BUSINESS CHANCES IN REMOTE MANILA

NUMEROUS GOOD FIELDS FOR INVESTMENT. Splendid Opportunities for Corporations to Develop the Tremendous Resources of the Philippines. Things Which Are Needed.

Special Correspondence of the Chicago Record. Manila, Dec. 17, 1898.—This peaceful manana land is rapidly undergoing a great change. Manila is booming with new industries, each steamer bringing swarms of people into the city, men of capital are feverishly outfitting vast projects and every day sees some new evidence that the day of "poco tiempo" is gone and that "pronto" is now the word of the hour.

Ever since the telegrams indicated the definite likelihood that America would retain the Philippines, rents have been steadily advancing, the price of land has been going up, and the streets of the city have the same kind of restless activity that is characteristic of great American cities. Out in the bay there are nearly fifty steamships and sailing merchantmen, the river is choked with shipping, and instead of the out-of-the-way, unvisited port that Manila was in the old days—the yesterday—the water front now presents a scene of life and business that Singapore barely equals.

It will now be an experience of remarkable interest to see how a nation so rich and progressive as the United States will transform these stammering islands to the development of which they are capable.

At present there is only one railroad here, and it is very little more than 100 miles long. The cultivated districts are either along the single artery of traffic or are located in sections easily accessible from the sea or by river navigation. Great tracts of land as fertile as any in the world are absolutely untouched, owing to the expense of transportation, and the present inaccessibility. A system of railroads is one of the inevitable consequences of the American occupation of the Philippines.

VALUABLE TIMBER LANDS. The big timber sections, where there are districts the size of Illinois covered with valuable forests of narra, molave, mahogany and other woods, will of necessity be the fields for the investment of hungry capital. At the present time, lumber is very costly here, although there are whole islands whose mountain sides are upholstered with the foliage of rich forests. The cost of lumber is so great that the railroad here was obliged to get all of its ties from Japan.

There are three banking corporations here, two of which are branches of London houses. These two are the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China. The third is the Banco Espanol and Filipino, a solid institution, but at present embarrassed by the effects of the revolution and war and by Spanish directors who are eager to return to Spain. These banks operate on a silver basis, which is considered to be the only practical system for the Philippines under present conditions. There is a great field here for an American banking corporation, with branches in Iloilo, Cebu and Zamboanga, and the coming six months undoubtedly will see the establishment of such a concern.

PRIMITIVE TRAMWAY SYSTEM.

Another thing which is destined to undergo a speedy transformation is the tramway system now in operation in Manila. Although Manila has over 300,000 people within its limits and is scattered over a wide extent, the street cars are small concerns propelled by a motive force of one pony, or rabbit. Appearance indicates that the animal is a large rabbit, but common sense credits it with being a species of horse with stags like a picket fence. The cars always are crowded, and it is really pitiful to see those poor little beasts struggling along with an Indian driver yelling and blowing rubber whistles that make a noise when it exhausts. When the car reaches one of the inclined approaches to any of the numerous bridges, an extra pony is attached, the street is cleared for half a block, several excited natives start the street with the noise galloping and the momentum of the force acquired in the 100-yard dash carries the car to the level of the bridge. This is one of the most exciting events that happens in Manila, and is attended by so much noise and yelling that it comes nearly being a ceremony. The car system pays an 8 per cent. dividend, however, in spite of the wretched equipment. An electric street railway will pay from the beginning.

CHANCES IN ILOILO.

Iloilo also is a good field for the construction of a tram system. At present there is no line in the town, although the population is about 10,000. Iloilo alone would hardly support a street car line, but the other features about the project insure its success. Three miles to the west, across the river, is Jaro, a town of 20,000, while about three miles to the northwest is Molo, with nearly 10,000 inhabitants. There is no connection in the way of transportation except carriages, al-

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Sunday School Lesson for February 12.

Christ Explains Himself.

JOHN V. 17-27.

BY J. E. GILBERT, D. D., LL. D., Secretary of American Society of Religious Education.

CONTEXT.—Jesus did not remain long in Galilee. Between His departure from Jairo, John 11:39 and His return to the Galilee, the interview with the woman at Jacob's well and the healing of the nobleman's son—both of which have been studied in this course. While other deeds and conversations must have changed His attention, the inspired writer refers to the mystery of His life, and some have been so impressed by it that they have worshipped every living thing. Whatever may be man's theories, all confessing that a life beyond human knowledge. The evangelist does not press his views to teach that inert matter ever becomes living matter by any power within itself. Now Jesus lays hold of this well known confession concerning the life principle and asserts that both He and the Father, as their pleasure, impart life, and when it is taken they may restore it. This is the same as to say that both are Divine persons having equal power. (John, 1:12.)

REVERENCE.—Having shown His equality with the Father by declaring that His life-giving power was the same, Jesus next urges that a legitimate confession, that He ought to receive the same reverence as the Father, must be made. (John, 5:19.) It is not to be understood that Jesus desired the same honor as the Father, but that He desired the same reverence as the Father. (John, 5:23.) In fact, He affirms that the Father desired the son to receive equal honor with Himself, and that He, the Father, had given a measure to that end. (Verse 22.) The Almighty and Eternal had voluntarily relinquished the right of judgment as administrator of affairs in this world, and had committed all the matters of government to the Son (Matthew, 28:25) so that the most exacting of men might receive mercy. (John, 5:27.) It was not merely an arrangement in the Divine wisdom for the Divine mercy, but it had an ultimate design, the exaltation of Jesus in the thought of mankind. (Philippians, 2:9.) The entire transfer will continue even into the future. (John, 5:28.)

CONDEMNATION.—From these elevated themes pertaining to His nature, His relation and His work, and the consequent honor due to Him, Jesus descends to consider the results of accepting His life. (John, 5:24.) Theology, in which the intellect was chiefly engaged, to matters of personal salvation. The objective point all along had been to show that Jesus was the Son of God, and that He was the life-giver. (Verse 26.) Therefore the former assumption of divinity did not detract from the glory of the Father, but was to be remembered. This appears to subordinate the Son, and it would be so understood but for what follows. (Verse 26.) In this connection, it is to be noted that the affection of the former for the latter, (Matthew, 11:27) manifested in a complete revelation, so that all the acts of the one are the acts of the other in the light of that full knowledge which is one essential of the Divine nature. (John, 1:17.) This explanation of doctrine, in which the nature and work of the Almighty was well suited to make the enemies of Jesus comprehend more fully His claim and character.

EQUALITY.—As already shown, the language of Jesus is so clear, that it is impossible to misunderstand the words which He used. He is inferior to God; that He acted as a representative—

doing only what had been appointed, what He had seen done. Indeed, this interpretation puts upon the passage during the Arian controversy. To guard this point more fully, Jesus affirms not only that the Father and Son were perfectly equal, but that in the highest of all their actions they were perfectly equal (verse 21), each doing what only a Divine being can do. In all ages all men have acknowledged the mystery of life, and some have been so impressed by it that they have worshipped every living thing. Whatever may be man's theories, all confessing that a life beyond human knowledge. The evangelist does not press his views to teach that inert matter ever becomes living matter by any power within itself. Now Jesus lays hold of this well known confession concerning the life principle and asserts that both He and the Father, as their pleasure, impart life, and when it is taken they may restore it. This is the same as to say that both are Divine persons having equal power. (John, 1:12.)

AUTHORITY.—Our Lord has now reached the climax. Gradually He carried His hearers on from point to point until He had disclosed the benefits which were to be derived through Him—pardon for sin and life eternal, the latter promised to those who believe in Him through faith. He now returns to the thought advanced by Him to the Father, and to explain in what sense something had been given to Him. If authority was given, it was not originally possessed. It was not essentially Divine. If it was not Divine, it was not permanent. (John, 1:1.) And the larger part of the church has grievously blundered. But here is the key to the lock, "given, because He is the Son of God." (John, 1:1.) In taking our nature and becoming flesh, He humbled Himself (Phil, 2:7) and relinquished something of what He had from eternity. (John, xvii, 5.) And yet there was conferred upon Him in this fleshly form and mortal office the authority essential to His mission. So the whole authority disappears. Jesus was Divine and human. His humanity He lost but was re-invested.

SUMMARY.—It will be seen that the lesson is in two great parts, doctrinal and experimental. Some in our time use the doctrinal part to the neglect of the other, provided his heart and life are correct. But Jesus thought otherwise. Out of the ten verses in this passage all but seven are devoted to the practical. (John, 5:24-30.) In taking our nature and becoming flesh, He humbled Himself (Phil, 2:7) and relinquished something of what He had from eternity. (John, xvii, 5.) And yet there was conferred upon Him in this fleshly form and mortal office the authority essential to His mission. So the whole authority disappears. Jesus was Divine and human. His humanity He lost but was re-invested.

CERTAINTY.—The assertion in the last

verse was very emphatic, attended by "verily, verily." To increase the certainty of that which He spoke, Jesus repeats the words (verse 26), and alludes to fulfillments not far distant, showing that life through Him would be surely obtained. There are three kinds of death mentioned in Scripture—natural, spiritual and eternal. The first consists in the separation of body and soul; the second in the separation of the soul from God (Colossians, 2:3); the third in the separation of body and soul from God in the other world. Answerable to these are three kinds of life—the union of soul and body, the union of God and the soul, the communion of body and soul with God in the realms of bliss. Hence, Jesus says "the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God and live"—a three-fold life shall be given through Him, beginning here and continuing in the world beyond. (John, 5:24.) And this will result from the fact mentioned many times, (John, 1:4), that Jesus was a source of life (verse 26), and possessed the power to impart life.

Next came the raffle, with its accustomed rounds of drinks and excitement. The winner had to set them up twice, and the party started for home. The monkey was perched on his winner's shoulder, a position he was not accustomed to, and he made no trouble on the way. The entire party accompanied the winner to the door of his house.

It was high noon of a dark and stormy Sunday when the hero of the previous night's raffle awoke from a dream-disturbed sleep with a racking headache and a blank memory. He raised himself to his elbow in bed and looked around the room with a sad and sorrowful gaze. His eyes glanced at the bed and fell on the monkey, peeping out of the warm covers at the foot, where he made a comfortable nest for himself. A cold chill chased up and down his spine and a perspiration of fear moistened his forehead. He reached for his hat, but his hand, pressing it with trembling fingers, and suffered for all kinds of mental tortures until his valet responded. Then he hissed in an agonized whisper:

"Louis, look there on the bed. If you see nothing there telephone at once to the Revere hospital for Dr. —"

"If you please, sir, I see an animal."

"What kind of an animal?"

"A monkey, sir."

"Oh, all right; you can go."

Louis went, the young man smiled a sickly smile, turned over and fell asleep once more.

THOUGHT HE "HAD 'EM" SURE

Woke Up to Find a Monkey Lying on His Bed.

They were sitting around a table in a well-known beer garden uptown one Saturday night, mixing beer and wine, regardless of consequences, and enjoying life. They were a well-dressed lot of blumen out on a bender. Good stories were told, telling jokes were cracked and healthy laughing was all but constant. An Italian organ grinder entered, accompanied by his ubiquitous monkey. The monkey pleased the boys by his antics, and they urged the Italian to go through his entire repertoire, twice. Then, instead of passing the hat for the organ grinder's reward, some one suggested they buy the monkey. Everybody cheered the suggestion, and the price was asked. The Italian whined and said he could not part with his pet, his companion, his bread-winner. They urged him, and he named a ridiculous figure. Finally they compromised on \$10, and the boys made up a pool for that amount. The organ grinder departed, and the monkey was secured to a leg of the table, relates the New York Press.

ARRIVAL OF ADVENTURESEES.

Manila is also becoming the "Mecca" for dozens of adventures, who see golden prospects here. A number of women have drifted in from nearly all the big cities of the orient, and in one or two instances, where their character was discovered before they landed, they were ordered by General Otis away from the island. A salon has just been opened with Japanese barmaids, and there are other evidences that an era of ritz and moral reform is not dawdling in the Philippines. At the present rate of moral decline, Manila will in a few years have boodles a-plenty and a political machine.

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